

Let justice also spring up

As Christmas is fast approaching, be aware of God's desire to dwell in your heart. He is there present within you ... Come, Lord Jesus ...

Pray for the following grace:

Ask God to open your heart during this Advent and Christmas to let justice spring up not only in your life but also in your homes and the world, as you listen to this Advent hymn ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LeCUBW2fvhY>

Scripture reading:

Lk. 7: 18-23

John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'"

At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

Reflection:

During this season the air is filled with talk of peace and reconciliation. The warmth of the season draws us closer to one another and even moves us to act on behalf of those in need. We hear a great deal about charity and sharing. What is often missing is the necessary talk about justice, for peace and reconciliation are only possible if we first seek justice.

In the Bible, justice is generosity. Biblical justice seeks out those most in need and responds in abundant measure. Biblical justice does not look for merit but looks toward the powerless and those without resources. Jesus is the very justice of God because He seeks out the powerless, the sinful, and the wretched so as to affirm their dignity and He

announces that the good news is especially for them. And it is for them not because they deserve the gift but because they need to hear they are accepted and loved.

Advent and Christmas are the acceptable times to let justice spring up in our hearts, homes and world. Justice is not some dry, impartial set of rules. It is the generous gift of God's limitless love for us. The justice we have received we are to give to others. To be about the work of justice, which is generosity, is to know the true peace and reconciliation of this holy season.

Questions for reflection:

- How are you experiencing the generosity of God during Advent?
- How are you working to enhance the earth and be a good steward of God's creation?
- In what ways is the Lord's generosity helping you to endure your trials?

Concluding prayer:

Lord Jesus, come into our hearts, our homes and in our world and let justice spring up and may we all be generous with your people, especially those who are in vulnerable situations.

Adapted from: "My Advent Journal – A spiritual journey to Christmas" – William F. Maestri